

Remarks

Claims 1-4, 17, 22-24 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,590,332 to Delbuck. In brief, the Examiner suggests that the Delbuck '332 reference discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Generally, a cylindrical pole piece for a moving coil loudspeaker is constructed to include a blind recess in the axial end face of the pole piece that faces an air-permeable dust cap. The recess lined with a plurality of spaced ribs or fins, disposed on an interior circumferential wall surface, in order to increase the surface area for dissipation. Further, the recess and ribs are preferably tapered, to enable the pole piece to be made as a forging.

Applicant does not understand the Delbuck '332 reference to disclose the particular features of the invention as set forth in independent claims 1, 22 and 26.

Specifically, the Delbuck '332 reference and, in particular, Fig. 8 of the '332 reference discloses a pole piece (element 39 of Fig. 8) which includes a number of heat sink fins (115 of Fig. 8) which extend radially outward from a hub (104 of Fig. 8) which is disposed about the periphery of the Delbuck voice coil. Indeed, the hub 104 is termed "the overlies hub 104" (column 7, line 64). Making it impossible to dispose within or partially within the travel path of the voice coil as recited in claims 22, 24 and 25 for example.

The Delbuck '332 reference is not understood to disclose a pole piece having a cylindrical body and having an end face which includes a blind recess. Nor does the Delbuck '332 reference disclose or suggest a blind recess with an interior circumferential

wall, and particularly does not disclose or suggest said circumferential wall having inwardly directed heat-dissipating ribs.

The Delbuck '332 pole piece does not have an end face with a blind recess. The Delbuck '332 reference does not disclose or suggest an interior circumferential wall. The Delbuck '332 reference does not disclose or suggest a circumferential wall having inwardly directed heat-dissipating ribs, as required by the elements of independent claims 1, 22 and 26.

Claims 2-4, 17, 23 and 24 are all dependent claims which partake of the novelty of independent claims 1, 22 and 26.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 17, 22-24 and 26 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Delbuck.

Claims 1 and 7-14 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,497,428 to Rojas. As was the case with the Delbuck reference the Examiner considers the Rojas '428 reference to substantially disclose the entire invention.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In particular, Applicant is unable to understand the Examiner's characterization of the Rojas '428 reference as providing any disclosure material to the present invention. Applicant is able to identify a pole piece (19 of Fig. 2) but is unable to discover heat-sink fins of any kind in the Rojas reference, much less inwardly directed heat-dissipating ribs disposed on an interior circumferential wall of a blind recess of a pole piece end face.

Rojas is understood to disclose "radially-downwardly inwardly extending passage(s) capable of channeling cooling air through and out of the pole piece" (column 4, lines 24, 25). Heat dissipation in the Rojas '428 reference is implemented by essentially drilling holes in the pole piece wall. Rojas does not disclose heat-dissipating fins of any kind, much less the particularly configured and disposed heat-dissipating ribs of independent claim 1.

With regard to dependent claims 7-14, these claims discuss the shape, orientation and tapering of the heat-dissipating ribs of independent claim 1. Since the Rojas '428 reference does not disclose or suggest heat-dissipating ribs of any kind, it is difficult to understand how various claim limitation of dependent claim 7-14 read on Fig. 2 of the Rojas reference. Further, dependent claims 7-14 all depend from independent claim 1 and partake of its novelty.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 7-14 under 35 USC § 102(b) in view of the Rojas reference.

Claims 5, 6, 15, 16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for obviousness over the Delbuck reference in view of unsupported assertions by the Examiner of the obviousness of alternatives to Delbuck.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Initially, the Examiner has asserted that Delbuck does not disclose a specific dimension configuration of a pole piece and therefore does not restrict to any specific configuration. This characterization is incorrect. In particular, Delbuck sets forth a specific pole piece configuration in Fig. 7 of the '332 reference, which specific configuration is repeated throughout the figures and text of the '332 reference. Given the specific

configuration of the Delbuck pole piece, i.e., the pole piece member 39 disposed within the voice coil 111 being a solid cylindrical piece, the Delbuck '332 reference requires the heat-dissipating fins to be disposed around the exterior of the voice coil and not within an interior circumferential wall. Accordingly, the configuration shape and taper of the heat-dissipating ribs of the invention cannot fall within the contemplation of one having ordinary skill in the art and having referenced the Delbuck '332 reference.

The Examiner is reminded that in order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness three basic criteria must be met; a suggestion or motivation to modify the reference, a reasonable expectation of success, and the reference must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations (MPEP 706.02(j)). The teaching or suggestion to make, as well as the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art reference and not based on Applicant's disclosure, since this would constitute impermissible hindsight (MPEP 706.02(j)).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, claims 5, 6, 15, 16 and 18-20 depend from independent claim 1 and partake of its novelty. In view of the arguments in support of patentability of independent claim 1, as well as the amendments to independent claim 1, the Examiner rejections of these claims for obviousness is considered moot.

Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 6, 15, 16 and 18-20.

Independent claims 21 and 25 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for obviousness over the Rojas '428 reference. In giving the rejection, the Examiner considers independent claims 21 and 25 to differ from the Rojas reference only with respect to the pole piece being forged.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

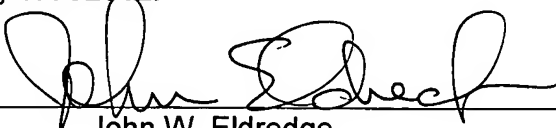
As set forth in connection with independent claim 1, and the Delbuck reference, above, independent claims 21 and 25 include a circumferential wall having inwardly directed heat-dissipating ribs. As discussed above, there is no disclosure or suggestion in the Rojas '428 reference of heat-dissipating ribs of any kind. Indeed, all that Rojas '428 discloses is poles or slots cut into the sidewall of a pole piece in order to allow air to pass through them. Poles or slots are not heat-dissipating fins. Further, independent claims 21 and 25 require blind recess having a tapered circumferential wall which decreases in diameter away from the end face. The Rojas '428 reference discloses a pole piece having interior walls of uniform thickness. The only tapered structure in the Rojas pole piece is a cone 32 which defines an upper face of a pole piece.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 21 and 25 are disclosed patentable subject matter over the Rojas '428 reference. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21 and 25 under 35 USC § 103(a) for obviousness is requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing remarks in support of patentability, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Notification of same and early passage to issue is respectfully requested.

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